

REMARKS

Claims 1-73 are pending in the application. Claims 58-63 have been cancelled and claims 33, 49-51, and 64 have been amended, leaving claims 1-57 and 64-73 for consideration upon entry of the present Amendment. Applicants respectfully request reconsideration in view of the following amendment and remarks.

The Examiner has restricted the claims and asserts that there are five inventions. In response to the Restriction, Applicants hereby provisionally elect Group I, claims 1-32, *with traverse*. Applicants respectfully traverse the Election / Restriction requirement for the following reasons:

Applicants have amended the claims to overcome the Restriction. First, with respect to the difference between Invention I and Inventions II and III, the Examiner asserts that the combination as claimed does not require the particulars of the subcombination as claimed for patentability. In particular, the Examiner asserts that the combination as claimed does not require the particulars of the subcombination as claimed because Inventions II and III do not require a specific movable conveyor. Applicants have amended the "conveyor belt" to be a movable conveyor belt. The term "movable" had been omitted by mistake. As can be seen from the claims depending from claims 33 and 51, the dependent claims use the terminology "movable conveyor belt." Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request that the Examiner withdraw the Restriction in regards to the difference between Inventions I and Inventions II and III.

Second, with respect to the difference between Invention II and Invention III, the Examiner asserts that the combination as claimed does not require the particulars of the subcombination as claimed because Invention III does not require a plurality of lanes. Applicants have amended claims 49 and 50 to include a plurality of lanes. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request that the Examiner withdraw the Restriction in regards to the difference between Invention II and Invention III.

Third, with respect to the difference between Inventions I-III and V, the Examiner asserts that the process as claimed can be practiced by another materially different apparatus. Applicants have amended claim 64 to limit the method to a packaging machine

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that has similar limitations to the claimed apparatus. As such, the method is limited to the apparatus claimed in the application. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request that the Examiner withdraw the Restriction in regards to the difference between Inventions I-III and Invention V.

Applicants have cancelled the claims associated with Invention IV.


For at least this reason, the Restriction Requirement is traversed, and removal of the Requirement is respectfully requested. As always, the Examiner is cordially invited to contact the undersigned by telephone to resolve any issues that remain.

Consideration and allowance of these claims are respectfully requested. The foregoing is believed to be fully responsive to this office action.

In the event the Commissioner of Patents and Trademarks deems additional fees to be due in connection with this application, Applicants' attorney hereby authorizes that such fee be charged to Deposit Account No. 06-1130.

Respectfully submitted,

CANTOR COLBURN I.L.P.

By: 

Lisa A. Bongiovi

Registration No. 48,933

CANTOR COLBURN I.L.P.

55 Griffin Road South

Bloomfield, CT 06002

Telephone (860) 286-2929

Facsimile (860) 286-0115

Customer No. 23413

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